



Assistance Dogs
INTERNATIONAL

North America Regional Chapter

September 25, 2020

Dear Members:

Please find attached the final agenda, committee reports and nominee package for:

**Assistance Dogs International (ADI)
North America Regional Chapter
Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday, October 6th, 2020

10:30am - 11:30am (PDT)

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84537495515>

Meeting ID: 845 3749 5515

All ADI North American Regional Chapter Accredited Members are invited to participate, and ADI NA Candidate programs are invited to observe. **Preregistration is required to attend the meeting.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAodO6spz4vG9GUolZaFb3cCrUtChR6RUPb>

Sincerely,

Laura

Laura Watamanuk | PADS

ADI NA Board Secretary

laura@pads.ca

Attachments:

Meeting Agenda

Annual Report of the Board

Election Summary Report and Election Nominee Bios

Committee Reports

Program Reports

2019 AGM Minutes



Annual General Meeting - Agenda

1. Welcome and Board Introductions
2. Roll Call & Rules of Order
3. Chair's Report
4. Approved Slate of Nominees
5. Elections
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Legislation and Advocacy Committee
 - b. Candidate Review Committee
 - c. Marketing and Education Sub-Committee
7. ADI NA Programs
 - a. ABC Breeding Cooperative
 - b. Puppies In Flight and the Ground Transportation Pilot Program
8. Q & A
9. Closing Video and PowerPoint
10. Adjourn

Annual Report of the Board

By Sheila O'Brien, Chair

Board Members

Sheila O'Brien, Chair	America's VetDogs/Guide Dog Foundation
Sheri Soltes, Vice Chair	Service Dogs, Inc.
Laura Watamanuk, Secretary	Pacific Assistance Dogs
Jenny Brodkorp	Service Dogs for America
Susan Armstrong	Guide Dogs for the Blind
Rick Yount	Warrior Canine Connection
Jennifer Rogers	PAALS
Jeanine Konopelski	Canine Companions for Independence
Lori Stevens	Patriot Paws

Despite the COVID-19 challenges the second half of this year presented, the ADI North America Regional Chapter Board (ADI NA) and Committees worked tirelessly on behalf of the 99 ADI programs and the over 16,000 actively working service dog teams in North America.

The **Legislative and Advocacy Committee** reviewed the 2020 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) "Traveling with Service Animals" issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and responded with comments presented to all ADI NA Programs via our first Town Hall. Approved by the ADI NA Board, all programs were encouraged to send in their program and graduate comments to the DOT and add their "Logos of Support" to a letter submitted by Airlines for America (A4A); a likeminded airline industry organization that represents all airlines in the US as well as several unions such as the Stewardess Union and the Mechanics Union. The new DOT rules regarding "Traveling with Service Animals" are scheduled to come out before the end of the year.

Canada Programs have also joined forces with A4A; working with their Chief Counsel to make sure there will be an easy transition when traveling between Canada and the US.

This Committee also reviewed two proposed bills; Senate Bill 2948 and Senate Bill 2949 as the ADI NA Board was asked for their support. Legislative Assistants for both Bills and from the VA Committee for Veterans Affairs were invited to attend an ADI NA Board meeting so questions could be asked. Suggestions from the ADI NA Regional Chapter Board were made and submitted to the Legislative Assistants who responded that because of COVID these bills are on hold. Follow up continues.

The **North America Candidate Review Committee (CRC)**, reviewed 11 program application packets since the conference last year and the ADI NA Board accepted nine new programs as new Candidate programs. This is the first step in the accreditation process. The **ADI Education Committee** is working on developing Candidate benchmarks to work towards their application for accreditation. They have access to the candidate site on the ADI website and may attend Town Halls and the ADI Conference. They have access to all accredited programs worldwide to answer questions and to help with their education of running a successful assistance dog training program.

Although COVID –19 changed many things for the worse, it did spawn a movement of virtual connection that united many of the Member and Candidate Programs. Five Town Halls meetings hosted by ADI North

America participating programs learned from the experiences of other ADI members willing to present what successful steps they took, what programs they implemented and digital tools they use for fundraising and to maintain donor relations and client services.

Representatives from the **ADI Marketing and Education Committees** also surveyed the ADI NA working service dog teams regarding their encounters with out of control pets or “fraudulent” service dogs and found that untrained dogs in public and fraudulent service dogs have a profound impact on ADI accredited service dog teams, increasing scepticism and a Service Dog’s legitimacy and for many, resulting in injury or in career-ending behavioural changes to the Service Dog. This valuable information was shared with A4A and with the Department of Transportation.

The **Airline Accessibility Campaign** was completed this year and provides a “Tool Kit” that programs can use to educate their airports/airline personal and the US Department of Transportation on access rights and expected service dog behaviour. Canada Programs have initiated a committee that will use the Airline Accessibility Access kit as a basis to create a similar “Tool Kit” that will reflect their accessibility laws and requirements for service dog airplane access.

Finally, the **ADI NA Breeding Cooperative (ABC)**, celebrated its start of their 8th year with 42 enrolled program members from across the US and Canada. Presently, this financially stable cooperative works with accredited programs from ADI North America. In addition, ABC is supporting a pilot program that will allow ADI NA members with the help of volunteers from all member participants, to transport dogs and puppies around the US and Canada using a free software platform called Doobert that helps automate transport requests. Hopefully, in the future, the programs of the ADI Breeding Cooperative will be expanded or duplicated in other ADI Regions.

As you can see, the ADI North America Board of Directors did not let COVID-19 stop them from working on behalf of all Member and Candidate programs. ADI NA Regional Chapter is now recognized by the airlines, other transportation entities, the VA, government officials and researchers, as an organization that sets the Gold Standard for the training of Assistance Dogs.

We all look forward to working with you next year. Stay Safe and keep up the good work!

Best Regards,

Sheila

Sheila O'Brien
Chair of ADI North America
Special Advisor to America’s VetDogs and the Guide Dog Foundation
Sheila@vetdogs.org

Election Summary Report

On December 31, 2020 ADI North America Regional Chapter Board has two (2) vacant positions. The following Board Member nomination slate is provided for your reference:

Candidates:

- Jenny M. Brodkorp | Service Dogs of America - Standing for Re-election (2nd term)
- Jillian Ashton | Indiana Canine Assistant Network Inc (ICAN) - Standing for Election

Current Board (term expires):

- Jeanine Konopelski | Canine Companions for Independence - 1st term (12/31/2021)
- Jennifer Rogers | PAALS - 1st term (12/31/2020 stepping down from the board)
- Jenny M. Brodkorp | Service Dogs of America – Standing for Re-election (2nd term)
- Laura Watamanuk | Pacific Assistance Dogs Society - 2nd term (12/31/2022 reducing 1 year)
- Lori Stevens | Patriot Paws - 1st term (12/31/2024)
- Rick Yount | Warrior Canine Connection - 1st term (12/31/2022)
- Sheila O'Brien | America's VetDogs - 1st term (12/31/2022)
- Sheri Soltes | Service Dogs Inc - 2nd term (12/31/2023)
- Susan Armstrong | Guide Dogs for the Blind (Board appointed replacement) (12/31/2022)

Election Nominee Bios



Jillian Ashton - Standing for Election **President | Indiana Canine Assistant Network Inc (ICAN)**

ADI Education Committee – CHAIR

Jillian Ashton became president of ICAN in the summer of 2013 after being involved as a volunteer and board member for over 10 years with the organization. ICAN commenced its operations on February 14, 2002 when three service dogs in training were delivered to the Rockville Woman's Prison for their training. ICAN trains and places assistance dogs with individuals with disabilities and provides foundational life skills to inmates through their experiences as trainers. ICAN is the only accredited service dog program in Indiana.

In my twenty-four-year career, there have been moments when I felt it was time to expand my comfort zone and dive in - and this is one of them.

After being involved with the service dog industry for some time now, I feel an essential desire to bring my skills to help accomplish the significant mission of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). I have a proven record organizing projects, leading teams, raising funds, and highlighting awareness to achieve a common goal. I have honed these skills in a variety of ways, including organizing the 2019 ADI Conference in Indianapolis, IN, achieving the largest attendance and best net revenue for the ADI organization to date.

Now, I want to be a part of the bigger picture and actively preserve the integrity of world-wide service dog programs through advocacy and education. Thus, I submit my nomination for consideration to the ADI North America Board of Directors.

In my current role as President of Indiana Canine Assistant Network, Inc. (ICAN), I provide the vision and leadership for the organization and establish the culture. I have been doing this work for over 18 years with ICAN as a volunteer, board chairman and now as its chief officer. What an incredible journey it has been! I've led a team to increased overall revenue 60% since 2013, procured more active volunteers and board members, engaged major donors, and crafted a strategic plan to anchor ICAN on an intentional path. Furthermore, I achieved certification as fund raising professional, validating my two decades of experience. This education helped me establish structure in advancement methods especially in major gifts moving our major gift average from less than \$5,000 per gift to \$20,000 in less than five years.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my name for consideration.

Election Nominee Bios



Jenny BrodKorp - Standing for Re-Election **Executive Director | Service Dogs for America**

ADI NA Candidate Review Committee – CHAIR

I am humbled by the opportunity to bring forth my second nomination to (potentially) continue to sit as a member of the ADI North American Regional Chapter Board of Directors. As the Executive Director of Great Plains Assistance Dogs Foundation, Inc dba Service Dogs for America, it would be an honor to continue on the ADI North America (ADI NA) Board, among like-minded individuals paving the way for greatness within the service dog industry.

Since accepting the position of Executive Director at Service Dogs for America, I have put forth every effort to be an Assistance Dogs International "best practices" organization. Under my administration, Service dogs for America has grown an amazing team of individuals (administration and trainers) who believe in and embrace ADI "best practices" culture. We are driven by the possibilities of what can be achieved by pushing past the minimum requirements. In doing this, we are placing more fully trained service dogs than we have in the history of the organization.

During my sit as an ADI NA Board member, I have chaired the ADI NA Candidate Review Committee. This committee reviews, interviews, and makes recommendations regarding acceptance or denial of programs for candidacy for ADI NA. I share the committee's recommendations with the ADI NA board for them to vote and move on our committee's recommendations.

My passion for canine care and training is long standing. I know first-hand the lives that can be enriched and freedoms that can be established through partnering with a trained service animal. I have nearly 16 years of dog training experience. I am an American Kennel Club evaluator for all tiers of Canine Good Citizen as well as AKC's temperament test (ATT). My entire life has been enriched by canines (and other animals).

Formally, I earned two bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees in my academic career. I am a US Army veteran (AOS: 70B, 70K; Medical Service Corp). I have nearly ten (10) years of addiction and mental health counseling experience. I have served on four (4) Boards of Directors in the areas of: mental health counseling, addiction counseling, financial planning, and dog training (kennel club). I am goal driven and have never been one to accept the minimum standard. My personal mission statement is to remain 'teachable' every day. In doing so, I acquire the tools to become a better person tomorrow than I am today. It is my intention to apply these tools and offer them to others - inspiring and empowering them to achieve their own personal greatness. What better way to do this than to surround yourself with every possible learning opportunity, which is why I desire a position on the ADI North American Regional Chapter Board of Directors.

Thank you, in advance, for considering my nomination.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative & Advocacy Committee

By Sheri Soltes, Chair

Members

Al Peters	Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN)
Danielle Forbes	National Service Dogs
Gerry DeRoche	New England Assistance Dogs (NEADS)
James Kennedy	Hawaii Fido
Janet Severt	New Horizons Service Dogs
Karen Moldovan	Freedom Service Dogs
Paige Mazzoni	Canine Companions for Independence (CCI)
Rick Yount	Warrior Canine Connection

November 25, 2019

(Committee Chair) Attended DOT ACAA (Air Carrier Accessibility Act) Disability Advocacy Meeting in DC. DOT heard out Advocates concerns on issues regarding air travel with Assistance Dogs and other issues for travelers with disabilities including insufficient lavatory size.

January 20, 2019

The Department of Transportation publishes NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) by Department of Transportation Traveling By Air With Service Animals (98 pp). Requests comments by public over next 60 days. <https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/aviation-consumer-protection/notice-proposed-rulemaking-traveling-air-service-animals>

Our committee reviews and responds as follows:

February 2019

Create and distribute an ADI, NA member survey regarding whether programs train multiple Assistance Dogs for a single client.

Results: Majority – all say “no”

Draft Comments in response to DOT’s NPRM. (14 pp)

Drafted summary of Comments for circulation to ADI, NA membership.

Issues:

Service Animal Definition	DOT	ADI, NA
	Trained to perform tasks to mitigate an individual's disability	Agree
	Excludes ESAs	Agree
	Limits species to dogs	Agree
Documentation		
	Vet Form: Health & Behavior	Disagree Advocates for check off box on reservation form by passenger
	Behavior and Training Attestation Form	Agree Only if it can be checked off on reservation form by passenger
	Relief Attestation Form	Agree Only if it can be checked off on reservation form by passenger
Check In	1 hour early	Disagree
Number of Animals / Passenger	Up to 2	Disagree 1 (Confirmed by survey)
Large Service Animals	Must fit in foot area or on passenger's lap	Disagree Some are large and should be accommodated
Control of Animal	Should be harnessed, leashed, tethered or otherwise under the control of their handler	Agree
Direct Threat	Can't travel if it poses a direct threat. Determine individually using reasonable judgement	Agree
Breed Restrictions	Continue to prohibit airlines from breed restrictions	Agree

March 2020

(Committee Chair) Attended DOT teleconference meeting of ACAA (Air Carrier Accessibility Act) Disability Advocacy Committee. DOT basically said everyone would see the results at the same time when they published them but hinted that they were in agreement with the majority of ADI, NA's positions.

Comments accepted by ADI, NA board, then shared with membership and presented at Town Hall, March 24, 2020.

(Committee Chair) Filed comments with DOT's online portal, March 31, 2020.

(Committee Chair) Wrote response to DOT regarding Request for Extension of Comment Period by Matt Handal, US Support Animals. This is an ESA provider organization. Also wrote a response to Mr. Handal's communication to the ADI, NA board requesting support.

Fun fact: He falsified multiple ADI, NA member organizations, claiming they supported his position and request.

DOT denied their request.

(Committee Chair) Attended Airlines For America (A4A) teleconference: Airlines & Service Animal Orgs - DOT Proposed Forms, March 31, 2020. Summary: everyone was reasonable and generally agreed with ADI, NA's positions.

April 2020

Tasked by ADI, NA President Sheila O'Brien to review:

Senate Bill 2948 - K9s for Veterans Therapy Act:

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program for work therapy using service dog training Sponsor: Senator Thom Tillis, R, NC

The ADI, NA Legislative and Advocacy Committee's main issue is that although this is therapeutic; it is not sufficient to qualify the veteran as a Service Dog / Assistance Dog trainer. ADI, NA leadership also is concerned it will promote non-ADI trainers/training organizations.

Various edits suggested, not finalized. With COVID, the elected officials are not answering calls regarding this bill.

Senate Bill - 2949 PAWS Act:

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a grant program for the purpose of pairing service dogs with eligible veterans. Organizations that receive grants shall provide veterinary health insurance coverage, hardware, and travel expenses for each service dog and veteran participating in the program. Sponsor: Senator Deb Fischer, R, NE

The committee has not taken any definitive action on these two bills. ADI, NA President Sheila O'Brien and Committee Member Rick Younts have both suggested edits and a possible combination of these two bills; however, COVID has slowed down response time by elected officials and their staffs.

Committee Member Paige Mazzoni is attempting to reach her elected representatives regarding these bills.

June 2020

(Committee Chair) Attended DOT teleconference meeting of ACAA (Air Carrier Accessibility Act) Disability Advocacy Committee.

Candidate Review Committee

By Jenny BrodKorp, Chair

Members:

Chris Diefenthaler	Assistance Dogs International
Alex Ivic	Canadian Guide Dogs for The Blind
David Locklin	Leader Dogs
Diane Bernier	Fidos for Freedom
Kim Arnett	Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence
Michael Goehring	Guiding Eyes

“The objective of the Candidate Review Committee is to Review candidate nomination applicants and make recommendation to approve or deny candidacy status to the Regional Chapter Board.”

The Candidate Review Committee is dedicated to the successful integration of candidate programs into ADI. This year we saw a very successful and impressive number of candidates. We evaluated 11 programs from Sept 2019 to Sept 2020. Two programs were denied, one program fixed their deficiencies quickly and resubmitted. They were then approved in the same reporting period. This is to say that 9 programs during this reporting period have met or exceeded the criteria for candidacy recommendation.

The Committee would like to congratulate the following ADI NA Candidate Members:

Believet Canine Service Partners

Dog Tag Buddies

Hearts of Gold

International Hearing Dog, Inc

New Life K9's

Patriot Assistance Dogs

Paws for Life

Retrieving Independence

Valor Service Dogs

We are actively recruiting for members for our committee. If you are interested in applying, please find the job description on the Members Area of the ADI website and contact Ms. Chris Diefenthaler for an application.

ADI NA Marketing & Education Sub-Committee

By Jennifer Rogers & Jeanine Konopelski, Co-Chairs

Town Hall Meetings

ADI NA held four community Town Hall webinars to assist in educating members. Recordings can be found in the Members and Candidate areas on the ADI website under Resource Center, Town Hall.

- May – Maintaining Donor Relations During COVID-19
- June – Building Community: Joining with Stakeholders during Stay-at-Home Orders
- July – Client Placements during COVID
- September – Celebrating Digital Tools

Airline Accessibility Campaign

The ADI North America Airline Accessibility Campaign has added an education toolkit that is available below. The goal of this campaign is to educate airport/airline personnel and the US Department of Transportation on access rights and expected service animal behavior for people with disabilities traveling with service animals.

We encourage every ADI NA member program to educate their local airport personnel with the assistance of a PowerPoint that has been developed. Contacting the marketing and communications department of your local airport is a good starting point, if you do not already have a contact. After presenting this material, please fill out the form on the link below so that we can track which airports this has been shared and determine which ones we need to target more specifically. There is also an airline access campaign poster that can be shared in a printed format of any size that describes the differences between service dogs, emotional support animals and pets. ADI NA encourages each program to supply their graduate teams with an ADI accredited member logo or patch on their working dogs' vests/capes or equipment to help identify our graduates while in airports and the general public.

Click [HERE](#) for the Airline Access Campaign Toolkit PowerPoint Presentation, Toolkit Poster and Completed Presentation Form on the ADI website.

ADI Member Fraud Impact Report

1395 individuals from 41 ADI member programs participated in a survey on the impact of out of control pet dogs and fraudulent service dogs. The respondents included 549 teams from Canine Companions and 846 from other member programs, inclusive of guide, hearing, service, psychiatric, facility and medical alert/dual trained dogs, with the majority being service dogs for physical disability (38.5%).

The 27-question survey examined the impact of out of control dogs on working service dog teams, including in airports and planes, where the Americans with Disabilities Act and Air Carrier Access Act can apply. The survey yielded significant results including:

- 92.6% reported encountering out of control pet dogs or fraudulent service dogs, while 1 in 4 reported these encounters more than ten times in the past 12 months.
- Nearly 50% encountered out of control dogs in airports and/or grocery stores
 - 59% of incidents in airports occurred after security
 - 25% of teams who have traveled with their service dog encountered out of control dogs during a flight
- 78.8% have had an uncontrolled dog snap at, bite, vocalize at, or otherwise interfere with their service dog.
- 48.3% of teams had been denied access or asked to leave a business where pets are not typically allowed
- Two-thirds of surveyed handlers feel that fraudulent service dogs have negatively impacted quality of life and/or independence.

Service dog fraud has had a profound impact on service dog teams, increasing skepticism around a service dog's legitimacy, and for many, resulting in injury or career-ending behavioral changes to the service dog. While only 39 respondents reported needing to retire a dog from its working role completely, dozens reported no longer feeling comfortable bringing their service dog in public, instead only using the dog in the home.

PROGRAM REPORTS

ABC Breeding Cooperative

By Bob Phillips & Marina Hall Phillips

Operational Update For Year Seven

August 2019 Through July 2020

Year Seven: ABC completed its seventh year of operation on July 31, 2020. ABC's fiscal year runs from August through July. Year seven began with a continuation of six prior years of gradual improvement in achieving ABC's primary vision of creating a reliable supply of purpose bred puppies for our members while making continual improvements in dog type. However, in March of 2020, COVID 19 began to interrupt the operations of ABC members (and in fact all ADI members worldwide). Everyone is familiar with the general nature of challenges facing our members so we will not report these in detail. However, unique to ABC was a COVID 19 threat to the sustainability of ongoing collaborations which depended on dog transport and would not allow for proper social distancing. A lack of a unified national response in the USA created new complexities for intra-state and USA-Canadian transfers. Interruptions in Puppies in Flight programs and concerns about ground transportation posed further challenges.

This was a test of ABC's culture of collaboration and cooperation that we have been building over the years. We are pleased to report these relationships held strong and members rose to the challenges of COVID 19. They adjusted with amazing flexibility and creativity to keep things moving. While there was clearly an impact on the number of matings and breeding cycles being missed, pregnant broods still delivered pups that needed to be raised and many members found ways to complete breeding for enough broods to yield an adequate source of new puppies.

When transport across the USA Canadian border was halted, ABC members agreed to redistribute pups according to alternative transport avenues while some members agreed to raise puppies indefinitely for Canadian members who highly valued the genetic diversity represented in a number of pups assigned to them. Recently a first attempt to transport puppies (2 from USA to Canada and 2 from Canada to USA) failed due to confusion among border agents regarding COVID 19 related regulatory and documentation requirements. Undaunted, ABC Steering Committee members and program leaders Sue Meinzinger (Summit Assistance Dogs in Anacortes, Washington) and Laura Watamanuk (PADS, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada) researched (rather grilled) various agencies, completed new sets of documentation and on September 17, 2020 successfully completed the transfer of the 4 dogs. As a next step these organizations and their staff will create templates and procedures that all other programs can access to facilitate transport between the two countries that, for many, is still viewed as impossible.

Some ABC members without staff and resources to host a litter were able to find another member with the resources to receive the brood and raise the litter keeping puppy supply moving forward. The examples of ABC member creative collaboration (large and small) are too numerous to itemize, but we are looking forward to an active and productive year 8. For the seventh year in a row ABC has had a 100% renewal rate for ABC members and this despite COVID 19 setbacks. During the COVID 19 crisis ABC was engaging in a breeding collaboration with KNGF in Holland involving sending Susquehanna Service Dogs' stud Prague to KNGF to cover a number of broods. In return ABC will get a puppy back from each Prague litter. Prague completed his task in April but continues to be stuck in Holland due to COVID 19 travel restrictions. Thanks to Prague's family, Susquehanna leadership, and ABC Steering Committee leadership Prague is idle no longer. At least 5 other European assistance dog programs have already arranged to use Prague or in the queue to utilize Prague's services before coming home. Future pups from these litters will help European programs bring valuable genetic diversity to their lines while potentially giving ABC access to new European lines. This type of effort foreshadows benefits of future ADI International breeding collaboration.

New Developments:

- **Ground Transportation:** ABC initiated a new ground transportation model in collaboration with ADI in November of 2019. In partnership with internet engine DOOBERT, Guide Dog Foundation's Puppies in Flight Coordinator Barrie Madasu, and ADI's Chris Diefenthaler, the ground transportation program will supplement the Puppies in Flight program to provide flexibility and alternative transport options. The pilot project for the first year is funded through ABC Reserves and ADI. The project will be open to all ADI members and is currently ready for member signup and training. Implementation of the project was delayed due to the COVID 19 shut down but is now scheduled to resume in October/November of 2020.
- **Estimated Breeding Values, Genomic Research and the Working Dog Project:** ABC has been working with the International Working Dog Breeding Association and IWDR (Jane Russenberger and Eldin Leighton) for several years to achieve an ABC vision of deploying estimated breeding values in future breeding decisions. This is now being realized in year seven with some estimated breeding values in use and others ready to come online during year eight. In addition, working with ADI's Chris Diefenthaler, IWDR, and linking with scientists involved in the Working Dog Project, we are hoping to reach a collaboration working toward genomic estimated breeding values and other genomic research. In this model ABC/ADI members are a source of genomic data, IWDR is the database engine, and an effective interface is created with multiple scientific communities to facilitate research of interest to the parties. We expect to have a number of ZOOM orientations for members with more details in early 2021.
- **Behavior Checklist (BCL):** The ABC Steering Committee adopted the BCL as the primary tool for collecting and utilizing behavioral data in developing estimated breeding values for behavioral traits. Internal consistency and reliability of these tests is essential to achieving this goal. Training materials are now available through IWDR to support ABC programs (and other IWDR users) in BCL training. Guide Dogs of America planned a large joint BCL training program for this last summer that was cancelled due to COVID 19. However, we hope to re-energize BCL training in 2021.
- **ABC Private Facebook Page:** ABC's private Facebook page continues to serve as a comprehensive toolbox and educational center supporting member breeding activities at all levels. With a tremendous amount of member utilization of this tool it is not unusual for real time interactions among members to solve problems at critical times (for example a member encounters a serious problem during an active whelp at 11:00 PM on a Saturday night. Posting the situation (often using photos/videos, it is common for others to respond right away. It is like having a village of breeding expertise at the tips of your fingers.
- **New Database Ambassador Position:** In April of 2020 the ABC Steering Committee approved creating the database ambassador position modeled after the Puppies in Flight position contracted through Guide Dog Foundation. Katie Brown started in May 2020 as our new database ambassador through a contract with PADS in BC, Canada. Katie's role is to help train ABC staff in use of the IWDR system; assist with retraining given staff turnover; conduct database audits to make sure data integrity remains high; and otherwise address IWDR database problems that arise.
- **International Regional Breeding Cooperatives (IBC):** As we move into year eight for ABC there are new developments under the leadership of Chris Diefenthaler and the ADI Board to explore creating regional breeding collaborative models that ADI members world-wide can access. ADEu (Europe) and ADI Oceania (Australia/New Zealand) appointed breeding collaborative work groups to work with Bob Phillips and Marina Hall Phillips to survey members and create regional models to address any unique issues facing Europe or Oceania. The results of this work were to be reported at the now cancelled ADI International Conference meeting in Split this October, however work will proceed in spite of COVID 19 and the results will be reported at a future date.

Year Seven Statistics:

So how did ABC's year seven actually turn out? Some statistics are highlighted in the bullet points below. In addition, two tables below provide more detailed statistics for fiscal year August 2019 through July 2020 and inception to date.

- **Queue Puppy Distribution:** In year six ABC distributed 173 queue puppies to members and this included a donation of over 15 puppies from a non-member ADI accredited program. That means in year six ABC produced 158 queue puppies. This compares very favorably with year seven because in spite of COVID 19 ABC distributed 141 queue puppies among its 39 dues paying members (Foundation members do not participate in the queue). Importantly all 39 members were offered a minimum of 3 queue puppies. Of those only four members declined puppies such that they received less than 3 queue pups.
- **Host Puppy Distribution:** ABC's operating guidelines have tables that allocate puppies based on which organizations contribute to litter production. In some cases one member provides stud service, another member might perform the mating and a third might host the whelp and rearing of the litter. In year six ABC distributed 223 puppies to members that whelped and reared litters compared to 198 puppies in year seven. Again, the impact of COVID 19 while severe on each individual program, did not significantly derail ABC collaboration and production.

ABC Membership Activity Year End Snapshot

FY 2019 – 2020 (as of July 31, 2020)

Current ABC Members	41
New Members Year 7	6
Membership Categories	General 9; Host 30; Foundation 2
Host Members Hosting Active ABC Breeder	21
Enrolled Broods	5
Enrolled Studs	2
Member Hosted Stock from Other Member	7
ABC Member Currently Hosting Brood/Litter	3
# of Different Stud Dogs Used	28
# BRD EVL reviewed	189
# New BRD [F, M]	23F, 5M
# Matings Skipped due to COVID-19	6
Queue Puppies Distributed Year 7	141 (29% of all Queue pups distributed since inception)
Total Puppies Distributed Year 7	363 (30% of all pups distributed since inception)
Statistics Since Inception	August 2013 through July 2020 (7 years)
Queue Puppies Distributed	486
ABC Host Puppies Retained To Date	642
Total Puppies Distributed Inception to Date	1,213

ADI Breeding Cooperative - Production and Placement Status Report

Organized by Fiscal Year Date of Birth (FY DOB)

As of July 29, 2020

ABC FY: August 1 through July 31

Date of Initiation: August 1, 2013

ABC Bred Production

FY	ABC Broods	ABC Studs	ABC Litters	Av Litter Size	Conception Rate	Neonatal Mortality
FY 2013/14	N/A ¹	N/A	13	6.8 ²	.87	.09 ³
FY 2014/15	N/A	N/A	20	6.8	.87	.10
FY 2015/16	N/A	N/A	29	6.1	.88	.10
FY 2016/17	35	8	37	7.4	.76	.06
FY 2017/18	38	8	34	7.6	.77	.07
FY 2018/19	42	7	56	7.2	.81	.08
FY 2019/20 ⁴	51	14	49	7.7	.86	.07

1 Previously dates on dogs' status changes were not captured so one cannot go back retroactively and determine the number of active breeders at a time in the past. The snapshot of info here is saved at the close of each FY for historical record.

2 This includes deceased/stillborn puppies.

3 The percent of puppies born within the FY who have a Status Detail of [Stillborn] or [Neonatal Loss].

4 Covid-19 began impacting breeding production March 2020. 8 Matings were skipped due to pandemic.

Puppies In Flight Ground Transportation Pilot Program

By Barrie Madasu and Grete Eide, Guide Dog Foundation

ADI Member Benefits: Transportation Update 10/6/20 meeting

As we continue and expand collaborative efforts among member programs, exemplified by ABC Breeding Cooperative, it benefits us to explore innovative new ways to safely and conveniently exchange dogs and puppies. Since programs are spread out across the US and Canada, a reliable transportation system can help us to accomplish this. Currently, we have the member benefit of AA Puppies in Flight to help with many of the long-distance exchanges. ADI has managed the AA Puppies in Flight partnership since 2008 with much success, with Guide Dog Foundation and America's VetDogs coordinating daily operations of the program since 2015.

AA PUPPIES IN FLIGHT-Air Travel Program

AA Puppies in Flight (PIF) is an amazing benefit for ADI members through our partnership with American Airlines. American Airlines staff volunteer to fly our pups and dogs in the cabin of their airplanes free of charge from all of their locations in North America. Not only does this have the potential to save each member program thousands of dollars in transportation fees, it also allows our dogs to acclimate to air travel and not have to fly cargo. All ADI accredited programs in good standing can use the program. To participate, your organization would need to complete a simple application, participate in a short training program, and log in to post your requested transports. GDF staff directly manages the day to day operations by posting, assigning, maintaining contact with AA volunteers and ADI program staff and volunteers to answer questions as needed. AA trains their staff with ADI program help and GDF trains the ADI programs. There are currently 94 active AA staff helping with transports. There are 60 ADI programs signed up for this member privilege.

Number of dogs/pups the AA team has transported for ADI programs each year:

- In 2015-**267**
- In 2016-**275**
- In 2017-**257**
- In 2018-**181**
- In 2019-**167**
- In 2020 to date-**54** (March-June 2020 postponed due to pandemic) July 2020 up and running again! There are less flights and more schedule changes but despite the pandemic, most transport requests are being picked up weekly by the volunteers. We are so thankful for this program!

DOOBERT-Ground Transportation Program Pilot Program

To strengthen the transportation system of ADI programs, the ADI Board along with support from the ABC Breeding Cooperative are currently working on a trial Ground Transportation program with GDF as the facilitator. A ground transportation system can help the programs move dogs in the local/long-distance areas by car instead of plane, which serves as a great complement to the AA Puppies in Flight Program. This trial program will allow participating ADI member programs to transport dogs and puppies around the US and Canada utilizing our collective pools of willing volunteers.

An ADI program member was kind enough to bring Doobert to our attention. Doobert is a free, custom-built platform/website in use in North America to transport rescue and shelter dogs via automated transport requests and assignments. When our program is fully operational, ADI member programs can

register, place transportation requests and monitor the transport of their puppies/dogs by other ADI member program volunteers using Doobert.

The Doobert team agreed to work with us free of charge- They are in the process of customizing their existing software/system so that it applies to ADI programs and their volunteers. They have set up unique landing pages, FAQ's sheets, tips and terminology, without any fee.

Training of ADI programs in February 2020- 41 programs signed up to learn more about Doobert. Webinars/training sessions were held in February and the programs were excited to learn and get started. The next step was to train the ADI volunteers that were interested in driving. We were on track to start transporting in June and then the pandemic happened. This slightly sidelined the project. Programs were polled to see when they and their volunteers were comfortable driving again and Fall was the consensus.

Doobert has only a few employees and they had some staffing losses recently. We hope to return as planned once they advise us. The approximate timeline to start training again in October we are waiting to hear from Doobert staff.

Benefits of Doobert:

- ✚ [Keep track of transports & segments.](#)
- ✚ [Invite sending & receiving organizations to participate just by typing their name.](#)
- ✚ [Manage reservations for each animal and assign them to specific crates.](#)
- ✚ [Plot transports on Google Maps and show details of each segment.](#)
- ✚ [Create local rides and rescue relay transports with just a few clicks.](#)
- ✚ [Manage sign-up of volunteers for transport segments automatically.](#)
- ✚ [Send texts, emails & mobile app notifications to volunteers for new transports.](#)
- ✚ [Auto-split automatically and including hand-offs and overnight timing.](#)



Meeting Minutes - September 9, 2019

1. Welcome

Sheila O'Brien welcomed all North American Regional Members to the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

2. Roll Call

Laura Watamanuk took Roll Call. Attendance at 2019 Annual General Meeting:

79 Members | 43 attendees | 13 proxies = 71% membership attendance

3. Elections

Sheila introduced the 3 Candidates that are running for the two open positions on the NA Board and asked each candidate to provide a brief personal introduction to the membership.

1. Lori Stevens of Patriot Paws
2. Kyria Henry of Paws for People
3. Sheri Soltes of Service Dogs Inc

4. President's Report

Sheila reported on the busy year and updated on the work of the Board and the various Committees. Some of the work included advocacy work to promote the work of ADI on a National level. She updated on the problems the Airlines are experiencing with fraudulent dogs and was happy to announce that ADI NA Board/Committee members are active participants in these discussions and are being asked to provide input on solutions. Up until two years ago, the Airlines were excluding ADI but with the help of Al Peters of Can Do Canines, we were able to finally get to the table and into these discussions. ADI Standards are now being used as a baseline for these important discussions.

Sheila discussed the Board's advocacy work on behalf of Veterans, so our clients are afforded the same access rights as a service dog for a person with a physical disability. She also provided an overview of the survey conducted by CCI on fraudulent service dogs.

Sheila asked the membership to take advantage of the toolkit that will be presented later in this meeting which will help to educate the airlines on behaviour of service dogs and to help explain the difference between types of dogs. This tool kit explains ADI, our accreditation process and our standards so please use this to educate your local Airports and Airlines when flying.

5. Committee Reports

a. Candidate Review Committee

Jenny BrodKorb was appointed as the new Committee Chair following Rod Haneline's retirement from Leader Dogs of the Blind. Jenny reported that during this past year the Committee reviewed 11 candidate applications; 9 were approved and 1 application is pending as it requires a site visit.

The committee is meeting monthly, so applications are being processed quickly. Following review, recommendations are then made to the NA Board for approval.

b. ABC Breeding Cooperative

Laura Watamanuk provided an overview on the work of the Breeding Cooperative. ABC currently has 42 broods and 8 studs hosted across 20 schools. The production goals of the cooperative are to produce 58 litters this year with projections showing each ABC member school receiving 7 queue pups this year.

Laura also acknowledged the generous support of Guide Dogs for the Blind who recently donated 39 pups to ABC and also hosted a conference in May 2019.

One of the major strategic goals for this year is that all ABC members be trained in Behavior Checklist (BCL) scoring and for each organization to input BCL scores into IWDR. Additionally, the Working Dog Project has invited ABC members to participate in a long-term study to introduce genetic based estimated breeding values.

c. Legislation and Advocacy Committee

Sheri Soltes reported on the busy year and extended her appreciation to all the committee members for their hard work.

Sheri reported on the Department of Transportation (DOT) revisions and rules that came into effect on August 1, 2019. These new regulations specifically pertain to animals traveling in cabin. The work of the Committee was to ensure that the DOT knew that ADI is the subject matter expert and represents over 17,000 teams. The committee provided comprehensive feedback on all revisions which included species restrictions, number of animals, weight, flight time/length and documentation for proof of a service animal and documentation for vaccine records, training, and behaviours.

Questions/Comments:

Rick Yount commented that he was initially excited that they were going to align however, when reviewing the paper, he noted that there are separate requirements for Veterans with PTSD. To support this modification and distinction felt like a betrayal for our PTSD clients as stigma is already a problem. He hoped that there would be a focus on behavior of dogs.

d. NA Airline Access Campaign

Jennifer Rogers and Jeanine Konopelski presented the new NA Airlines Access Campaign Tool Kit. Currently the toolkit is in final draft form and following input from the membership, finalized materials will be loaded on the back end of the ADI website for membership use. To ensure the toolkit is relevant and useable for all North America programs, the committee asked for volunteers to help with Canadian relevancy and comparable terms; Alex Ivac of Dog Guides, Dani Forbes of National Service Dogs and Bill Thornton of BC Guide Dogs volunteered to assist.

The Committee asked the membership to distribute to local airports and recommended that outreach be to relevant Marketing/Communications personnel or to personal contacts if applicable. They requested that once distribution or contact is made, that you report all communications on the back end of the ADI website.

Questions/Comments:

Lou Picard asked for further clarification on the patches. Jennifer confirmed that programs in good standing would be allowed to order patches, it would not be done by individuals. It will be up to the organization to regulate use of capes or patches. Costs would be minimal with a bulk purchase.

6. Election Results

Following the tally of votes, Lori Stevens and Sheri Soltes were announced as the successful nominees to the Board. Congratulations to the new ADI NA Board members.

7. New Business

Canine Partners for Life suggested that ADI educates the public on the problem with people believing they can write prescription for service dogs and educate on the problem this presents the Industry.

Sheila O'Brien reminded the membership that we welcome volunteers to serve on the various committees. If the membership has ideas that will help ADI, please consider getting involved.

8. Adjourn

Jennifer Rogers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jenny BrodKorp seconded. All in favour. Carried.